

get us to go by passing part of the farm bill, to go to conference.”

I asked the gentleman last week, I asked him again, there's nothing on here about going to conference. The gentleman's told me we're not going to conference until we pass something on the nutrition part. We want to see something on the nutrition part passed.

PETE SESSIONS said, in addition to that, when talking about why they brought the farm bill to the floor in the condition it was, dropping all reference and provisions for poor people to have nutritional assistance, said this:

We're attempting to then separate, bifurcate, offer today a rule and the underlying legislation which hopefully will pass which would go to conference and the Senate, because they've passed their own farm bill, has included in its provisions where they discuss the nutrition program.

This is PETE SESSIONS, Republican chairman of the Rules Committee speaking, Mr. Speaker.

As a result of that, that should be in their bill on a conference measure. The House simply, at this point, if we pass this part, could go to conference.

So the gentleman is not accurate when he reflects there's nothing to go to conference on. The Senate has amended their bill into the House bill. We could clearly go to conference on that under the processes.

I think the gentleman must know that. And that was the expectation that PETE SESSIONS says was the purpose of passing the farm bill.

But let me go back to the point I was making before the gentleman wanted to correct me on what I think were accurate representations on all the pieces of legislation I mentioned. Certainly that's the case on the budget. My opinion, it's the case, certainly on the budget.

I don't know what the intentions are, but the fact is we haven't gone to conference on the farm bill and we didn't go to conference on the Violence Against Women bill.

The fact is, what those bills that he mentioned did have in common, Mr. Speaker, is—and he said, we've got no Democratic votes for it. There was no work to get Democratic votes. There was no work for compromise. That's, I tell my friend, why the polls reflect of working people such concern.

The majority, Mr. Speaker, talked a lot about confidence, talked a lot about building confidence if we were going to grow the economy. I agree with him. We need to have individuals confident.

And the gentleman knows, because he talks to a lot of business leaders, as I do, every one of them says that if they had confidence that we could work together and get things done, not put the debt limit at risk, not put the ongoing operations of government at risk, not continue to have fights—I talked to a major leader of one of the health insurers in this country and said, look, we may not like some of

this bill, but we think it's the law, and we're going to work to try to make it work for all Americans.

We're not doing that, Mr. Speaker. We're trying to repeal. We're not conferring. We're not cooperating. We're not trying to come to compromise.

And we can talk about working people, as is appropriate for us to do, and that's what the President is out doing, not here in Washington, not talking to all of us. He's talking to the people and saying, look, this is my program. This is what I want to do, and I'm not getting cooperation from the Congress of the United States.

I think he's absolutely right. And he's talking to the people, not to us, not here in Washington, but he's criticized for doing that by the majority leader.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's what he ought to be doing because the American people ultimately are going to have to make a decision as to who is looking out for their interest and who is just simply confronting and not listening to the people in the last election, just a few months ago, or right now.

When the people are saying, board of directors, work together, stop obstructing, I would hope we could do that, Mr. Speaker.

Unless the majority leader has something further he wants to say, I yield back the balance of my time.

--- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

□ 1230

--- NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is the 31st anniversary of the creation of the National Council for Independent Living. NCIL is the leading organization for persons with disability.

Thirty-two years ago, I began my career and life passion serving individuals who were living with life-changing disabilities. I'm proud to be one of the 214 cosponsors of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act. The ABLE Act will ease the financial strains for individuals with disabilities. I'm also proud to be the author of the Special Needs

Trust Fairness Act of 2013. This legislation removes the current barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from independently creating a special needs trust. What we're talking about is individual independence and making sure that public policy is a tool, not a barrier, in achieving this goal.

Once again, I want to thank the National Council for Independent Living for their leadership and service. Working with advocates such as the National Council for Independent Living, we will accomplish independence, dignity, and success for individuals living with disabilities.

--- CAUCUS ON BLACK BOYS AND MEN

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to thank Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for pulling together yesterday the first meeting of the Caucus on Black Men and Boys. Trayvon Martin's dad also participated with us yesterday. We need to do something about the violence that occurs all too often, particularly with many young African American boys, in our communities.

Black boys in our community face daily obstacles, including run-ins with the police, high rates of unemployment, racial profiling, and extreme prosecution that leads to over-incarceration in the community. As a black man, I can attest to what President Obama said in his recent speech:

Trayvon Martin could have been me.

African American men have lived an experience of being stereotyped and profiled in other ways that most people have never had to endure and can never understand.

Mr. Speaker, it is our job as legislators to create policies that create a level playing field so everyone can succeed.

--- PREVENTING DOD FURLOUNDS

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed important legislation: the Defense appropriations bill. This bill prohibits furloughs on employees serving our Department of Defense in fiscal year 2014. These employees are now in their third week of furloughs.

This week, we heard from Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller Bob Hale about the adverse impacts, which are expected to worsen if furloughs continue. His message made clear the harm furloughs already have on our force readiness. He echoed what I am hearing from my constituents that I talk to on a daily basis: these dedicated patriots employed by DOD are disappointed and frustrated they cannot support the warfighter and are fearful of an unknown future.